AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert after the original paragraph [0049] that appears in the section titled "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS" the following new paragraph:

Figure 38 illustrates an exemplary method for updating firmware/software, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

Please delete paragraph [0061] in the section titled "DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION" and place, in its stead, the following paragraph (with additions shown by underlining):

[0061] In an embodiment of the present invention, an end-to-end process of a firmware/ software update solution (see Fig. 38) may comprise generating one or more update packages within a generation environment (see step 3810). The generation environment may be provided by the carrier network 107 or by a manufacturer. In an embodiment of the present invention, the process may also comprise saving the generated update packages in a repository along with associated metadata information such as, for example, identification information, security information, operation information, configuration information, etc. (see step 3820). The process may comprise packaging one or more generated update packages, associated metadata, and optional security information into a deliverable unit such as, for example an update package file (see step 3830). In addition, the process may comprise communicating the deliverable unit to a testing environment in the carrier network 107, and/or to a distribution environment, also in the carrier network 107, comprising the update store 111 and the server 113 (see step 3840). The process may also comprise populating the update store 111 with update packages, employing a lifecycle management system for update packages (see step 3850). An embodiment of the present invention may manage the lifecycle of update packages in the carrier network 107 (see step 3860), receive requests for update packages, determine appropriate protocol handlers and employ them, and facilitate downloads of update packages by end-user mobile handsets 109.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the process may also comprise scheduling of downloads by end-users and/or notification of mobile-device end-users. The process may also comprise download activities initiated by end-user on mobile handsets 109, verification of received update packages by the download agent/loader 137 in the mobile handsets 109, implementation of update package instructions by an update agent 125 in the mobile handset 109, and verification of the effectiveness of the update activity in the mobile handset 109. In an embodiment of the present invention, the process may also comprise creating and storing billing information for processing and/or tracking of downloads by end-user mobile handsets 109.